

Attorney Docket: 030353
U.S. Application No. 10/720,587 Examiner SIKRI Art Unit 2109
Response to January 29, 2008 Office Action

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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

[c01] (Currently Amended) A method of providing communications services, comprising:

receiving a request for communications service, the request for communications service originating from a client communications device associated with a user, the request for communications service requesting communications service from a service provider;

dynamically assessing in real-time an availability of i) a communications network operated by the service provider and ii) another communications network operated by a different ~~another~~ service provider;

when a subcontracted processing service is required, interrogating the different ~~another~~ service provider to fulfill the subcontracted processing service;

ascertaining a best-value scenario that maximizes profitability for the service provider, the best-value scenario comprising at least one of segmentation, dispersion, assemblage, and routing of electronic data to fulfill the request;

grouping together individual packets of data as a segment, each of the individual packets of data in the segment requiring the subcontracted processing service;

dispersing the segment to the different ~~another~~ service provider for fulfillment of the subcontracted processing service;

receiving a result of the subcontracted processing service from the different ~~another~~ service provider; and

providing the communications service to fulfill the request, the communications service provided according to the best-value scenario.

[c02] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising determining a subcontracted color correction service is required for the individual packets, and wherein grouping together the individual packets comprises grouping together the individual packets requiring the subcontracted ~~the~~ [[a]] color correction service offered by the different

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~~another~~ service provider, and wherein receiving the result comprises receiving the result of the subcontracted color correction service.

[c03] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising assessing in real-time an availability of network routing in the another communications network operated by the different ~~another~~ service provider.

[c04] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising subcontracting the subcontracted processing service to the different ~~another~~ service provider.

[c05] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein grouping together the individual packets comprises grouping together the individual packets that require a subcontracted scaling service offered by the different ~~another~~ service provider, and wherein receiving the result comprises receiving the result of the subcontracted scaling service.

[c06] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein ascertaining the best-value scenario comprises ascertaining a lowest-cost scenario for formatting the electronic data according to a characteristic of the client communications device.

[c07] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein ascertaining the best-value scenario comprises ascertaining a lowest-cost scenario for providing the communications service.

[c08] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising accessing a Service Level Agreement defining parameters for the communications service requested by the user.

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- [c09] (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein ascertaining the best-value scenario comprises maximizing profitability for the service provider while satisfying the Service Level Agreement.
- [c10] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising utilizing the another communications network operated by the different ~~another~~ service provider to provide the communications service.
- [c11] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
- sending a reservation to reserve a routing path, the reservation including an instruction to only accept the packets of data having recognized header information and packet content, the reservation specifying a window of time within which the packets of data must be received; and
- when the packets of data arrive outside the window of time, then further comprising queuing the packets of data ~~for the processing service~~.
- [c12] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein providing the communications service comprises utilizing at least one of i) a wireline network operated by the different ~~another~~ service provider and ii) a wireless network operated by the different ~~another~~ service provider.
- [c13] (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein providing the communications service comprises utilizing at least one of i) cellular network operated by the different ~~another~~ service provider, ii) an I.E.E.E. 802 wireless network operated by the different ~~another~~ service provider, iii) a radio frequency (RF) wireless network operated by the different ~~another~~ service provider, iv) an Industrial, Scientific, and Medical (ISM) wireless network operated by the different ~~another~~ service provider, v) an infrared (IR) wireless network operated by the different ~~another~~ service provider, and vi) a wireless

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network operated by the different ~~another~~ service provider using another portion of the electromagnetic spectrum.

[c14] (Previously Presented) A system for providing communications service, comprising:

means for receiving a request for communications service, the request for communications service originating from a client communications device associated with a user, the request for communications service requesting communications service from a service provider;

means for dynamically assessing in real-time an availability of i) a communications network operated by the service provider and ii) another communications network operated by another service provider;

when a processing service is required, means for interrogating the another service provider to fulfill the processing service;

means for ascertaining a best-value scenario that maximizes profitability for the service provider, the best-value scenario comprising at least one of segmentation, dispersion, assemblage, and routing of electronic data to fulfill the request;

means for grouping together individual packets of data as a segment, each of the individual packets of data in the segment requiring the processing service;

means for dispersing the segment to the another service provider for fulfillment of the processing service;

means for receiving a result of the processing service from the another service provider; and

means for providing the communications service to fulfill the request, the communications service provided according to the best-value scenario.

[c15] (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer readable medium storing processor-executable instructions for performing a method, the method comprising:

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receiving a request for communications service, the request for communications service originating from a client communications device associated with a user, the request for communications service requesting communications service from a service provider;

dynamically assessing in real-time an availability of i) a communications network operated by the service provider and ii) another communications network operated by another service provider;

when a processing service is required, interrogating the another service provider to fulfill the processing service;

ascertaining a best-value scenario that maximizes profitability for the service provider, the best-value scenario comprising at least one of segmentation, dispersion, assemblage, and routing of electronic data to fulfill the request;

grouping together individual packets of data as a segment, each of the individual packets of data in the segment requiring the processing service;

dispersing the segment to the another service provider for fulfillment of the processing service;

receiving a result of the processing service from the another service provider; and

providing the communications service to fulfill the request, the communications service provided according to the best-value scenario.

[c16] (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, further comprising means for grouping together the individual packets requiring a color correction service offered by the another service provider, and means for receiving the result of the color correction service.

[c17] (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, further comprising means for subcontracting the processing service to the another service provider.

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- [c18] (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 14, further comprising means for grouping together the individual packets that require a scaling service offered by the another service provider, and means for receiving the result of the scaling service.
- [c19] (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to claim 15, further comprising instructions for grouping together the individual packets requiring a color correction service offered by the another service provider, and instructions for receiving the result of the color correction service.
- [c20] (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to claim 15, further comprising instructions for subcontracting the processing service to the another service provider.